

Law Student Opportunities

Criminal Law Division

Appeals, Writs and Trials Section

San Diego



The Appeals, Writs and Trials section of the Criminal Division of the California Attorney General's office represents the People of the State of California in post-conviction proceedings involving felony convictions. This includes writs and appeals in the state Court of Appeal, federal Court of Appeals, California Supreme Court and United States Supreme Court; responses to state and federal habeas corpus petitions; and post-conviction proceedings in death penalty cases. This section also conducts original criminal investigations and prosecutions in cases involving conflicts of interest by county prosecutors.

The Student Intern Program in San Diego allows law students to develop their written and oral advocacy skills by researching and writing respondents' briefs and conducting oral arguments in the state Court of Appeal. Students are exposed to the law enforcement community through "field trips" taken throughout the semester. "Field trips" may include ride-alongs with local police agencies; tours of state prison; shooting at a gun range; tours of Juvenile Hall and Juvenile Court; viewing an autopsy at the Medical Examiner's office; trips to Los Angeles to see a session of the California Supreme Court; observation in state and federal court; San Diego Police Foundation programs as well as in-house presentations.

Our program employs law students during the Spring and Fall semesters for 20 hours per week and during the Summer for 40 hours per week. Internships are generally unpaid although students can work for school credit and there is some availability of Work-Study through the law schools during the Summer.

The program is very competitive and positions are limited. Successful applicants are generally second and third year law students who have completed courses in Evidence and Criminal law. Class standing of top 20% or higher is preferred along with demonstrated success in other internships, clinics and work settings. Diverse work and life experience is also considered. Students will be certified through the State Bar and a security check is mandatory.

How to Apply:

Please submit a cover letter, resume, law school transcript, writing sample and three relevant references to:

Scott C. Taylor
Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
California Department of Justice
110 West A Street, Suite 1100
San Diego, CA 92101
scott.taylor@doj.ca.gov